



LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE


SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1949

H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

B. H. ROBJANT, M.R.San.I.
Sanitary Inspector



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**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dr. Sutton having retired from the post of Medical Officer of Health in June, 1950, I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the health vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District for the year 1949.

From the available statistics, it appears that the general health of the population has been satisfactory during the year.

With regard to infectious diseases, I would draw attention to the two cases of tuberculous meningitis which occurred and which were probably of bovine origin. The importance of a safe milk supply to the public cannot be over-stressed. Four cases of food poisoning, which were probably due to the consumption of ice-cream, indicate the need for the hygienic production, storage and exposure for sale of food. The model bye-laws which the council has adopted should help your sanitary officers in fulfilling this important aspect of their duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. PLEYDELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1950.

STAFF IN PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—1949

Medical Officer of Health: H. E. C. Sutton, Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: B. H. Robjant, M.R.San.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: M. S. Leslie, A.R.San.I.

Meat Inspector: Capt. W. A. Gibbs, M.R.C.V.S.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	.. .. .	2487
Population, Census for 1931	.. .. .	7030
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population up to December, 1949		8710
Number of Inhabited Houses (at end of 1949) according to the Rate Book		2510
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£46462
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.. .. .	£174/0/4

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Leighton Buzzard is an old market town pleasantly situated in the centre of a farming district with a fairly even balance of residential and industrial development.

The Market Square and a wide High Street is the main shopping area, which is also the centre for Banking and Commerce for the urban area and the surrounding districts.

The post-war residential development has mainly taken place in the northern part of the town, and, with the exception of a few light industries, which have become established around the centre of the town, the main industrial development still remains situated in the southern area.

Sand quarrying, and a number of associated industries engaged in the manufacture of roofing tiles and concrete products, still remain the chief industries of the town, and a firm which have commenced manufacturing asphalt floor tiles have considerably extended their works.

To meet the needs of those engaged in agriculture, there are two old established firms of Agricultural Engineers who supply and maintain all kinds of agricultural machinery and equipment.

The light industrial establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets, clothing, stationery and plastics, employ a considerable number of female hands from Leighton Buzzard and surrounding districts.

Sport and recreation are provided by privately owned grounds in the south part of the town with facilities for football, cricket, tennis and bowls.

Pleasure grounds owned by the Council also provide for sport and recreation, consisting of areas reserved and maintained by the Council for cricket, tennis, hockey and football.

Playground equipment has recently been provided in the Recreation Ground by the townspeople, and provision has been made for extending these amenities to the residential areas to the north of the town.

The town has several organisations which assist in social welfare; for example, the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Services has recently organised a "Darby and Joan" Club which caters for the weekly entertainment of old people, and which has a membership of nearly 100.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

						Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	179	97	82
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	9	4	5
				Total	..	188	101	87

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population is 21.6.

Birth Rate for England and Wales, 16.7.

						Total	Male	Female
Still Births—Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
				Total	..	3	1	2

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births is 15.7.

DEATHS

						Total	Male	Female
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	110	50	60

giving a crude death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the resident population. Adjusted death rate is 11.5.

Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.7.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General’s Short List)

							Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births
No 29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	..	..	0		0	
No. 30.	Other Puerperal causes	..	..	0		0	
				0			

MATERNAL MORTALITY FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Abortion with Sepsis	..	0.11	per 1000 (live and still) births
Abortion without Sepsis	..	0.05	„ „ „ „ „ „
Puerperal Infections	..	0.11	„ „ „ „ „ „
Others	..	0.71	„ „ „ „ „ „

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Six deaths occurred amongst all infants under one year of age, giving a death rate of 31.9 per 1,000 live births. Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales is 32.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH

								Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	..			0	0
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	..	..	.	..	..	..	0	0
5	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..			0	2
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..		3	0
8	Syphilitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
9	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
10	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
11	Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..				0	0
12	Acute Infective Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..		0	0
13	Cancer (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	7
14	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
15	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	..	..		2	5
16	Heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	18
17	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	..	..	.			3	2
18	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
19	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
20	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	..		2	0
21	Ulceration of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..				2	0
22	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..		0	0
23	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
24	Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	..	.	0	4
25	Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
26	Puerperal and Post-Abortion sepsis	..	..	..	..			0	0
27	Other maternal causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
28	Premature birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
29	Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infantile diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
30	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	0
31	Road Traffic Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
32	Other violent causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	2
33	All other causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	7
	All causes	..	..	..	..			50	60

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service is situated in the Town Hall, Luton.

This Service is under the direction of the Medical Research Council acting for the Ministry of Health and is free of charge to the Local Authority.

One of the main functions of this Service is to co-operate with General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health in the diagnosis, prevention and control of infectious diseases. For these purposes the laboratory will undertake the examination of material, e.g., throat swabs, sputa, faeces, urine and blood, from any patient suspected to be suffering from a communicable infection, or of being a carrier. All General Practitioners in the District have been acquainted of these facilities. It is intended that this Service shall in the future deal with all Public Health work of this nature.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulances or sitting case car transport are available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

Out patients of Hospitals using public transport are reimbursed their travelling expenses by the Hospital Authorities.

The Service also covers the removal to Isolation Hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows :

AMPTHILL, Claridges Lane. Telephone : Ampthill 2187.

BEDFORD, Newnham Avenue. Telephone : Bedford 4875.

BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane. Telephone : Biggleswade 2295.

DUNSTABLE, High Street North. Telephone : Dunstable 76.

LINSLADE, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard and Wing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Headquarters, 10, New Road, Linslade. Telephone : Leighton Buzzard 3332.

LUTON, 42, Church Street. Telephone : Luton 4600.

RUSHDEN, Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3, Purvis Road. Telephone : Rushden 403.

3. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council became responsible for the provision of this Service, and from 5th July the nurses and midwives in the District became the employees of the County Council.

Direct administration is by the Southern Divisional Health Committee.

Their names and addresses are :

Nurse Curry, S.R.N., S.C.M., 8, Beadesert, Leighton Buzzard.

Nurse Jones, S.C.M., S.E.A.N., 21, Oakley Green, Leighton Buzzard.

Nurse M. D. Chapman, S.E.A.N., S.C.M., 30, George Street, Leighton Buzzard.

HEALTH VISITING

There is one Health Visitor employed by the County Council, who visits the homes of mothers to give advice and help.

4. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

INFANT WELFARE CLINIC—Grovebury Road, every Friday 2-4 p.m.,
alternate Fridays 10 a.m.-12 noon.

A Medical Officer and Health Visitor are in attendance, assisted by a local Nurse and several voluntary lady workers.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC—Grovebury Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 noon.

DENTAL CLINIC — " " " " , 10 a.m.-11.30 a.m.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC—Luton and Dunstable Hospital :

Males—Monday to Friday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Females—Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Doctor in attendance on Mondays and Fridays.

CHEST CLINIC—St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton :

Monday	Alternate Mondays Patients seen by appointment only by Dr. Leelander, Consultant Physician to the Clinic, and other Mondays reserved for Ambulance Cases only.
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Tuesday 9.15 a.m.-12 noon—Children.
 2 p.m.—Female A.P. Refills.
 3 p.m.—Male A.P. Refills.
 6 p.m.—Female Clinic.
 6.30 p.m.—Male Clinic.

Wednesday 9.15 a.m.-7 p.m.—New Patients Clinic.

Thursday 9.15 a.m.-7 p.m.—Female Clinic.

Alternate Thursdays 2 p.m.-3 p.m.—Contact and Assessment Clinic.

Friday 9.15 a.m.-12 noon—Male Clinic.
2 p.m.—Female Clinic.
3 p.m.—Male Clinic.

5. HOSPITALS

GENERAL MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND MATERNITY CASES—These are usually admitted into either the Luton and Dunstable, or St. Mary's Hospital, Luton, or the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Erysipelas, and cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, with complications, are treated at Spittlesea Hospital, Luton.

TUBERCULOSIS—There is accommodation for 72 patients at Mogerhanger Sanatorium. Cases from the County are also admitted to other Sanatoria.

On 5th July, when the National Health Service Act 1946 became operative, these Hospitals passed into the ownership of the Minister of Health, for whom they are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, which Hospital is within the Oxford Hospital Board Region.

6. HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE

Under the National Health Act, 1946, the provision of this Service is the responsibility of the County Council, with whom your District might advantageously co-operate.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

ADOPTIVE ACTS

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1890.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, AMENDMENT ACT, 1907.

- Part II adopted.
- Part VI adopted.
- Part VII Section 81 adopted only.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925.

The whole adopted with the exception of Section 22.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Section I adopted.

BYELAWS

BUILDING BYELAWS

BYELAWS FOR NEW STREETS

SCHOOLS

The Schools in the town are as follows:

- County Secondary Modern Boys—

Average number of pupils on the roll	..	192
Average attendance	.. .. .	177

Sanitary accommodation consists of six water closets and one urinal.
- County Secondary Modern Girls—

Average number of pupils on the roll	..	169
Average attendance	.. .. .	154

Sanitary accommodation consists of nine water closets.

3. County Primary Boys—

Average number of pupils on the roll . . . 201

Average attendance 185

Sanitary accommodation consists of five water closets and one urinal.

4. County Primary Girls—

Average number of pupils on the roll . . . 191

Average attendance 179

The sanitary accommodation at present consists of six water closets, but these will shortly be replaced by a new building containing fifteen water closets for the pupils and one for the staff.

5. County Primary Infants—

Average number of pupils on the roll . . . 259

Average attendance 223

The sanitary accommodation, which at present consists of six water closets and one urinal, all accommodated in one building, is to be replaced by two new buildings containing eleven water closets for the girls and ten water closets for the boys respectively.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No school was closed during the year under review on account of Infectious Disease.

RAINFALL

The station at which the rainfall is taken is Woburn. The diameter of the funnel of the rain guage is 8 inches. Height above the ground is 12 inches. Altitude is 291 feet above sea level. Latitude 52 deg. 1 min. N. Longitude 0 deg. 35 min. W.

1949	Monthly Total	Rainfall in Previous Years		
	Total	Year	Woburn	England & Wales
January	0.96			
February	1.13	1939	29.89	40.3
March	1.35	1940	27.60	35.6
April	1.65	1941	25.52	33.8
May	2.14	1942	19.49	35.9
June	0.74	1943	19.09	33.4
July	0.53	1944	22.33	35.3
August	1.69	1945	20.65	33.27
September	0.81	1946	28.24	41.6
October	5.02	1947	18.46	35.23
November	2.66	1948	28.36	37.62
December	1.20	1949	20.28	30.9
Total	20.28			

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Mann, of the Woburn Experimental Farm, for supplying me with the above information.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The Town is supplied with water from two boreholes sunk into the greensand at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road. The quantity pumped varied between 250,000 and 300,000 gallons per day.

No. 1 Borehole is 20 inches in diameter and 211 feet in depth. The water is raised by means of a 5-stage 6-inch diameter electrically driven centrifugal pump through the pressure filters direct to the Reservoir, at the rate of 11,500 gallons per hour.

No. 2 Borehole is 27 inches in diameter and 250 feet in depth. The water is raised by an 8-stage 8-inch diameter electrically driven centrifugal pump at the rate of 12,000 gallons per hour, through the pressure filters, and is then boosted through a 7-inch diameter rising main to the Reservoir by means of an electrically driven booster pump.

When it is necessary to operate both pumps at the same time to maintain the supply, the pumping rate is regulated to 15,000 gallons per hour, which at present is the maximum filtration rate.

The filtration plant consists of three 8 feet diameter Candy vertical air-scoured pressure filters containing beds of sand and polarite to remove the iron and reduce the manganese. The maximum capacity of each filter is 5,000 gallons per hour.

The covered concrete Reservoir at Shenley Hill has a capacity of 400,000 gallons and a top water level of 423.5 feet above ordnance datum.

The new scheme described in last year's report for raising a larger quantity of water and for the provision of adequate treatment plant at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road, will be under construction in 1950.

When this scheme has been completed, supply difficulties at the Waterworks will have been overcome and the discoloured water caused by the deposit of iron in the mains, which has, at times, surged through the distribution system to the great inconvenience of the consumer, will have been replaced by an adequately treated water.

The water is, at present, chlorinated by a Candy Minor Chlorinator, and contains from 0.1 to 0.15 parts per million of free chlorine as supplied to the consumer.

The purity of the supply is controlled by routine sampling from the source and from various points in the supply system.

Monthly samples were taken and sent for bacteriological examination and the reports received proved the supply to be of a high standard of purity.

The following is a typical result of a chemical examination:—

						Parts per 100,000
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	..	..	..	..	..	0.04
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	0.0022
Albuminoid nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	0.0048
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	..	..	..	..	..	0.020
Lead or Copper	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO ₃)	..	..	..	..	..	19.0
Permanent hardness ( " " " " )	..	..	..	..	..	8.0
Total hardness ( " " " " )	..	..	..	..	..	27.0

The following are particulars of the number of population supplied from Public Water Mains:

	No. of Houses		Population
Direct to houses	..	2,543	8,721
From stand pipes	..	14	49

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the district is on the separate system. The northern portion of the town is drained by gravitation direct to the Sewage Disposal Works, and the southern portion of the town, which is divided into four areas, drains to four ejector stations situated in Hockliffe Road, South Street, Lake Street and Bridge Street, where the sewage is raised by means of compressed air through 5-inch diameter cast iron rising mains to the high level sewers. The compressed air is generated at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road, and is conveyed by means of cast iron pipes to the four ejector stations.

The scheme (described in last year's report) for connecting up the three ejector stations in Hockliffe Road, South Street and Lake Street, and for the construction of a pumping station near Chain Bridge, including the provision of new ejectors and a compressor station in Bridge Street, has been approved by the Ministry of Health.

The completion of this scheme will eliminate the risk of overflowing sewage in certain parts of the low-lying areas which has occurred when the ejectors have failed to cope with abnormal flows.

The outfall sewer at the Sewage Disposal Works discharges into two screening chambers with manually operated screens.

The sewage is treated by means of two continuous flow settling tanks, three 74 feet diameter clinker filters, two humus tanks and a chlorinating plant at the entrance to the Works.

The sludge from the settling tanks is drained into a sump and raised through a rising main by means of a centrifugal pump to shallow drying beds at the extreme end of the Works.

A Storm water tank is provided for dealing with over three times the dry weather flow, which has a weir outlet and overflow to the irrigation area.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the Urban area were periodically inspected and were found to be free from any serious pollution.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is a swimming bath situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff, which is provided with a chlorinating plant. Pupils from the Secondary Modern Schools are also allowed to use the bath.

The Spinney Pool in Billington Road, which for many years was used by the public for bathing and swimming, has lost its popularity and has now been practically abandoned for this purpose. This has partly been brought about by a considerable drop in the water level, and to tipping operations which are being carried out by British Railways on adjoining land, which, I understand, has, at times, caused a film of dust to settle on the water.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council's staff with a covered motor vehicle, and trade refuse is collected on application at a charge of ninepence per dustbin.

The disposal of refuse by the method of controlled tipping has been in operation at the Council's Tip in Vandyke Road since 1935, and although at times, infestations of crickets have caused considerable anxiety to the Council, I am pleased to be able to report that this trouble has now been adequately controlled by the making of careful inspections of the tip during the breeding season and the prompt dressing of the surface with Gammexane powder immediately there were signs of an infestation.

The house refuse from the Urban District of Linslade is now being received at the Tip on an agreed financial basis.

Tradesmen are allowed to remove their own refuse to the Tip for disposal during the mornings of any week-day, except Saturday, without a charge being made.

The Tip is periodically inspected by the Council's Rodent Operator and only on very rare occasions has it been necessary to carry out destruction work.

Street gullies are periodically cleansed and flushed with clean water, and during hot weather the latter operation is repeated as often as required.

Cesspools in the outlying parts of the district are emptied by arrangement with the Luton Rural District Council.

DISINFECTION

Premises are disinfected after the removal or recovery of infectious cases, and disinfectant fluid is supplied to the public at the Council's West Street Depot, free of cost.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Careful investigations are still carried out with a view to the eradication of the bed bug. Council houses are inspected and tenants are encouraged to report any signs of infestation or re-infestation of their houses. All such cases which come to our notice, whether in Council houses or private houses, are promptly dealt with by fumigation or spraying.

Families who have been allocated Council houses are interviewed on the above subject, and with their co-operation and consent, their homes are inspected and, when necessary, their furniture and bedding are fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide in a Furniture Van hired from a local contractor. The work is carried out by a trained operator who retains the keys of the new houses until he has tested and certified the furniture and bedding free from danger.

Eighty-six families were rehoused by the Council during the year, and from this number it was found necessary to fumigate the furniture of eleven households.

CAMPING SITES

Two licences were issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to applicants to station and occupy moveable dwellings for periods of six and eleven months respectively.

KNACKERS' YARD

There is one knackers' yard suitably situated on the outskirts of the district, which is kept in a satisfactory condition.

BAKEHOUSES

There are eight bakehouses in the district, one of which is underground.

One new bakehouse is being erected to replace one of the older type, and another is being extended and modernised to conform with present-day standards. As a result of informal action by the Council, the underground bakehouse has been reconditioned and improved.

FACTORIES

The following are the principal factories in the town which employ a considerable number of hands :

- 4 Concrete Roofing Tile Works
- 1 Floor Tile Works
- 2 Manufacturers of Concrete Products
- 1 Manufacturer of Blast Grit
- 1 Manufacturer of Precision Instruments
- 1 Manufacturer of Plastics
- 1 Manufacturer of Plastic Boxes and Stationery
- 2 Sandwashing and Grading Plants
- 1 Corset Factory
- 2 Clothing Factories
- 1 Laundry
- 2 Agricultural Engineering Works
- 1 Flour Mill
- 1 Gas Works

The remainder of the factories where only small numbers of hands are employed chiefly consist of : Brush Makers, Basket Makers, Joiners, General Engineers, Saddlers, Printers, and Furriers.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	30	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	66	78	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	1	1	—	—
Total	80	109	4	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation:				
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	1	1	1	—
Total	9	7	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUT-WORK (Sections 110 and 111)—There were no persons so employed.

HOUSING

The development of the Council's Clarence Road Housing Estate is still in progress, and in addition to the 100 Aluminium Bungalows, 38 traditional houses, two bungalows for aged persons and a block of twelve flats, have been completed and occupied within the present year.

The scheme for transferring growing families from small to larger type houses and for transferring diminishing families to smaller houses is still in operation.

The number and types of pre-war and post-war houses built by the Council up to the end of 1949 were as follows:—

	Two Bedroom	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom	Flats	Total
Pre-war Council Houses	4	156	10	—	170
Post-war Council Houses:					
(1) Temporary Bungalows (Tarran type)	31	—	—	—	31
(2) Garden Hedge Estate (Traditional Houses) ..	—	77	5	16	98
(3) Clarence Road Estate:					
(a) Aluminium Bungalows ..	100	—	—	—	100
(b) Traditional Houses	6	28	4	12	50
(c) Aged Persons' Bungalows .	2	—	—	—	2
	143	261	19	28	451

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 225
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 259
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 71
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 80
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. 7

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	71
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2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ..	14
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A.	Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	21
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	15
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil
C.	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
D.	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Total number of traditional new houses and flats erected and completed in 1949 classified as follows:

By the Local Authority	52
By private enterprise	3
By Air Ministry	40

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

1.	GENERAL							
	Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	447
	Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	290
	Nuisances detected without complaint	..	..	..	..	..	..	158
	Notices served, informal	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
	Notices served, statutory	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
	Nuisances abated :							
	(a) By persons responsible	..	..	..	..	..	..	248
	(b) By Council	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
2.	HOUSE NUISANCES							
	Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
	Guttering and rainwater pipes cleaned out or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
	Dirty houses cleansed and distempered	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
	Walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
	Floors repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
	Ventilation improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	New sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
	External wall repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
	Dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
	Pavements repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
	Water supplies improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Other defects remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
3.	DRAINS, WATER CLOSETS, ETC.							
	New drains laid	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Drains cleared or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
	Water closets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
	Sanitary galvanized ashbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
	Additional water closets provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Privy ashpits converted into pail closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Pail closets repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Pail closets converted to water closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
4.	KNACKERS' YARDS							
	Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
	Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
	Number remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
5.	BAKEHOUSES							
	Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
	Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
	Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
	Number remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
6.	DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS							
	Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
	Number of cowkeepers	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
	Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
	Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
	Number remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
7.	FOOD (PREPARATION AND MANUFACTURE) PREMISES							
	Number on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
	Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
	Number of defects found	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
	Number remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	19

8. VARIOUS

Removal of animals improperly kept	..	..	..	..	Nil
Visits to infected houses	..	..	..	..	9
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	5
Verminous houses fumigated or sprayed	..	..	..	..	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

In accordance with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949, the functions of Local Authorities in regard to the registration and control of dairy farms were transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Therefore, the six dairy farms situated within the Urban District came under the sole supervision of the appropriate department of that Ministry.

There are 20 milk distributors and 10 dairy premises registered in the Urban District. The dairies are regularly inspected and I can report that they are all maintained in a satisfactory, hygienic condition.

Eight retail dealers' licences and one supplementary licence were granted to distributors under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1939-1946, three of which were for Tuberculin Tested Milk and five for Pasteurised Milk.

The majority of retail distributors obtain their supplies in bulk and in bottles from Pasteurising Establishments situated in other districts, and there is only quite a small proportion of raw milk being retailed to the public.

Fifty-five samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for testing. and according to the reports received, 89% of the samples complied with the required standards.

Ten samples of milk were sent to the Laboratory for biological examination, and negative reports were received on eight of the samples. The other two samples, which showed evidence of infection with Tuberculosis, came from the same source, and immediate action was taken by the responsible Authorities.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

ICE CREAM

Seven premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, which has increased the number of registered premises to 19.

There is now only one establishment registered for the manufacture of ice cream, and this is provided with the most modern plant and equipment for producing ice cream of a high standard of bacteriological purity, and the results obtained from frequent tests have proved that a high standard is consistently maintained.

All premises are frequently inspected to ensure that they are maintained in a cleanly condition, and that the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, are being complied with.

I am pleased to state that practically the whole of the ice cream which is produced in the town or is brought in by wholesale dealers is sold in pre-packed form.

Fifty-eight samples of ice cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Luton, for bacteriological examination, and according to the present system of grading, 65% were of a satisfactory standard. The Proprietor of one Restaurant, whose ice cream consistently failed to come within the recommended standards, voluntarily ceased manufacture and has since purchased his supplies from reliable producers.

FOOD PREMISES

Sixteen premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food) intended for sale. These premises are kept under strict supervision and I am able to report that they are maintained in a cleanly condition.

Restaurants, shops and stalls where food is prepared, stored or offered for sale, are regularly inspected and steps taken to ensure that the premises and utensils are maintained in a cleanly condition, and that the food is prepared and handled under hygienic conditions.

The following articles of food at various shop premises were examined and condemned:

30 tins Fish	107 lbs. Canned Meat
266 tins Vegetables	44 lbs. Imported Meat
163 tins Fruit	34 lbs. Black Puddings
10 tins Jam	89 lbs. Beef
372 tins Milk	31 stones Fish
13 lbs. Cheese	80 lbs. Brawn
37 pkts. Custard Powder	56 lbs. Meat Pies
166 lbs. Fresh Fruit	15 lbs. Imported frozen Geese
135 tins Peas	149 lbs. Imported frozen Chicken
	27 lbs. Chitterlings

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	593	482	2070	90
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole Carcases condemned	2	3	6	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was Condemned	176	10	38	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	30.01 %	2.63 %	2.10 %	16.66 %
Tuberculosis only				
Whole Carcases condemned	8	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was Condemned	48	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	9.44 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	4.44 %

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
—	—	—	—	—

RODENT CONTROL

The council employ an experienced Rodent Operator whose services are also shared by the Linslade Urban District Council in accordance with the arrangements agreed to the Ministry of Food when Leighton Buzzard and Linslade formed a Workable Area Committee for the purpose of organising and dealing with the survey and destruction work in the two districts.

Strict supervision has been maintained over the district for which we are responsible, and frequent inspections have been made of areas which are more liable to become infested, and as a result of these investigations, destruction work was carried out to 101 properties, which are summarised below:—

Dwelling Houses	..	86
Factories	..	4
Sewage Works	..	3
Refuse Tip	..	4
Stables	..	1
Hotels	..	1
Brook Courses	..	2

In carrying out this destruction work, 172 bodies were recovered.

As a result of the Council adopting the scheme for the free treatment of dwelling houses, a noticeable difference was experienced by the Operator in the assistance and co-operation he received from residents.

Work carried out on other premises was charged up to the occupiers who have frequently expressed their satisfaction on the success of the treatment.

During the year, one routine maintenance treatment was carried out to the sewers in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Ministry of Food.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Isolation Hospital, Kensworth Lane, Dunstable, ceased admitting cases of Infectious Disease on 26th January, 1949. Cases of Infectious Disease requiring treatment are sent to Spittlesea Hospital, Luton. As mentioned earlier in this Report, this Hospital is now the property of the Minister of Health and is administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Group Management Committee.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SMALLPOX—No cases were notified.

SCARLET FEVER—Five cases were notified, of which three were admitted to hospital.

FOOD POISONING—Seven cases were notified, one case was admitted to hospital. Of these, four probably originated from ice cream consumed outside the district, while the other three occurred as sporadic cases.

ERYSIPELAS—One case was notified.

MEASLES—Thirty cases were notified, as compared with 225 in 1948. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH—Forty-one were notified, as compared with thirty-five last year. There were no deaths.

PNEUMONIA—Twenty-two cases were notified, compared with 16 in 1948.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS—No cases were notified.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No outbreaks of note occurred.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1949

Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all Ages	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 & Upwards
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis
Small Pox
Scarlet Fever	..	5	..	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Diphtheria	1	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning	..	7	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..
Puerperal Fever
Puerperal Pyrexia
Pneumonia	..	22	..	1	2	1	2	..	1	1	4	6	3	..	..
Erysipelas	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Measles	..	30	..	7	4	1	10	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	41	3	7	7	2	15	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Myelitis
Totals	..	106	4	15	15	13	7	30	..	1	4	6	7	4	4

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1949

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	..	..	..	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...
5	..	..	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	..	..	..	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
20	..	..	..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	..	..	..	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
35	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
55	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	..	..	..	5	5	2	1	...	2	3	...

Two cases of tuberculous meningitis were notified one of which was fatal. Both households were supplied with milk from the same source; and prompt investigation by the county veterinary officer of the dairy herd revealed an infected cow which was immediately slaughtered.

One Tuberculosis case was not notified, therefore the ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis Deaths to total Tuberculosis Deaths is 1/5.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was required to be taken under these Acts.

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

With the coming into force of the National Service Act, 1946, on 5th July of this year, the County Council assumed responsibility for the functioning of a scheme under which facilities are available for children of all ages to obtain this important preventive treatment free of charge, either from the family doctor at his surgery, or from a medical officer at any of the Welfare Centres or schools within the County.

Number of children at 31st December, 1949, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935):—

								Total Under
Age at 31/12/49	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15
(i.e., born in year)	1949	48	47	46	45	40-44	35-39	
	15	81	87	89	60	436	376	1144

Estimated mid-year Child Population, 1949: Under 5, 712; 5-14, 1,073; total, 1,785.

These figures indicate that 46.6% of the child population under 5 years of age has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 46.7% at the end of 1948. 75.6% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria, as compared with 25.6% at the end of the previous year; while 64% of the children under 15 years of age has been protected against diphtheria by immunisation.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES

By arrangements with the County Council, infected persons are treated at the Health Centre, Dunstable.

During the year under review no persons have received treatment.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS—No action was required under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	TOTAL BIRTHS					Total Deaths Registered in the District		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District				
		Live Births		Still Births			Number	Rate	No. of Non-residents registered in the District 9	No. of Resi-dents not registered in the District 10	Under One Year of Age		At all Ages		
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Number					Rate per 1,000 Nett Births 12	Number	Rate		
														3	4
1	2														
1940	7500	116	16.57	4	0.57	88	11.73	18	28	3	25.8	98	13.07		
1941	8604	114	13.24	5	0.58	68	7.94	17	47	4	35.0	98	11.39		
1942	7848	117	14.90	1	0.12	63	8.06	4	46	8	68.3	105	13.39		
1943	7600	114	15.00	0	0.00	53	6.99	3	40	0	0.00	90	11.84		
1944	7601	126	16.57	4	0.52	66	8.68	8	45	9	71.4	103	13.55		
1945	7550	163	21.59	6	0.78	63	8.34	0	32	5	30.6	95	12.59		
1946	7572	168	22.72	4	0.53	70	9.24	2	35	4	23.8	103	13.73		
1947	7730	166	21.50	2	0.25	58	7.50	3	23	4	24.1	78	10.10		
1948	8435	165	19.50	4	0.47	71	8.41	4	33	3	18.2	100	11.9		
1949	8710	188	21.60	3	0.34	67	7.69	2	44	6	31.3	110	12.6		

Population 1931 Census—7030

H. Jackson & Co.
(Printers & Publishers)
High Street, Leighton Buzzard
